UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN
JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE	Research Assistant
DEPARTMENT	School of Social and Political Sciences
LOCATION	Lincoln Campuses

JOB NUMBER	CASH064	**GRADE**	6	**DATE**	April 2025

REPORTS TO	Senior Lecturer

CONTEXT
The post-holder will be working full-time on a Wellcome Discovery Award funded project entitled '*Discovering Liveability: Coproducing alternatives to suicide prevention'*. Discovering Liveability is a 7-year collaborative research project, led by an interdisciplinary team of academics, practitioners and people with lived/living experiences of suicide who are based at the University of Lincoln, University of Edinburgh and Mind in Camden. The project aims to conduct a wide-ranging, qualitatively driven, and co-produced inquiry into the possibilities of 'liveability' as a focus for suicide prevention; establish, grow and critically evaluate approaches centring lived and living experiences of suicide; and interrogate the role of politics and policies in shaping the possibilities for 'liveability'.

JOB PURPOSE
The Research Assistant is responsible for conducting research on the project, as directed by their Line Manager, Principal Investigator(s) and relevant Co-Investigators. The Research Assistant will join Work Package 2 of the *'Discovering Liveability: Coproducing alternatives to suicide prevention'* project. In addition to the salary, the Research Assistant role also comes with tuition fees for the successful applicant to undertake a part-time MPhil/PhD (Doctoral Degree) in Social Science within the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lincoln. The project will fund PhD tuition fees (home fees). As part of Work Package 2, this role specifically focuses on community-based support for racialised/marginalised communities who experience suicidality/suicide/suicidal ideation. We are seeking candidates with experience working with these communities, and particularly welcome applicants with their own lived experiences of racialisation, marginalisation, and/or suicidality. Work Package 2 (co-led by Alex Oaten, University of Lincoln and Sarah Huque, University of Edinburgh) focuses on community-based practices of care for suicidality. The postholder will be expected to conduct a participatory ethnographic study with an organisation/organisations that support a racialised/marginalised community or communities experiencing suicidality, in an urban area of England. The postholder will be involved in data analysis from the ethnographic study and will contribute to relevant outputs linked to Work Package 2 research. You do NOT need to have a postgraduate degree to apply for this position, though applicants with these credentials are welcome to apply.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Literature Surveys

To undertake literature surveys and other investigations of the state-of-the-art and to prepare reports as required.

Research

To perform specified research under the direction and with advice from the Line Manager, Principal Investigator(s) and relevant Co-Investigators, to generate original knowledge, contribute to decisions about research direction, and to prepare reports on results, as required. The research assistant will not be expected to act as an independent researcher.

Plan own day-to-day research activity within the context of the required research programme, exhibiting a high degree of autonomy.

Contribute to the production of research outputs, including software, reports, papers and other publications, and preparation for and presentation at international research conferences.

Liaison and Networking

Liaise with internal and external collaborators, and with colleagues in the Department, maintaining positive and effective working relationships; this may include liaison with senior personnel in other organisations including collaborators, sponsors and clients.

Participate in internal research activities, including seminars, research meetings and continuous professional development activities.

PhD

Where appropriate and agreed, register for and undertake a PhD or other specified research degree.

In addition to the above, undertake such duties as may reasonably be requested and that are commensurate with the nature and grade of the post.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Key working relationships/networks	
Internal	**External**
- Line Manager - Project Principal Investigator at UoL - Other project staff based within School of Social and Political Sciences - Head of School of Social and Political Sciences - Other academic staff within the School of Social and Political Sciences	- Project Principal Investigator (University of Edinburgh) - Work Package 2 Co-Lead (University of Edinburgh) - Other members of the Discovering Liveability Research Team at University of Edinburgh and Mind in Camden - Community-led organisations, the public, stakeholders, and academics as appropriate

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Selection Criteria	Essential (E) or Desirable (D)	Where Evidenced Application (A) Interview (I) Presentation (P) References (R)
Qualifications:		
Degree in field relevant to research area (UK 2:1 Honours Degree or international equivalent)	E	A
English language proficiency as required for admission to study a PhD at University of Lincoln. Further information can be found here: (https://www.lincoln.ac.uk/studywithus/internationalstudents/englishlanguagerequirements/)	D	A/P
Master's degree in a relevant social science subject	D	A
Experience:		
Experience networking and working with Third Sector and/or community-based organisations (particularly those supporting racialised/marginalised groups experiencing suicidality)	E	A/I
Experience of further research training (e.g., data collection, management, ethics, analysis)	E	A/I
Relevant work experience (e.g., research assistant, Third Sector suicide-related work roles, government, statutory organisation, or related field linked with suicide prevention work)	E	A/I
Experience engaging and building rapport with individuals of diverse backgrounds. Ability to apply these skills to engage in inter-personal work.	E	A/I
Experience conducting qualitative methods, particularly ethnography	D	A/I
Skills and Knowledge:		
Ability to conduct original research under supervision in the subject area	E	A/I
Excellent written communication skills, including the ability to write reports and research outputs	E	A/I
Excellent oral communication skills	E	A/I
Ability to apply relevant knowledge, skills and techniques in research, including qualitative and social research methods	E	A/I
Knowledge of qualitative research methods, particularly ethnography and participant observation	D	A/I
Knowledge of critical social science theories, especially suicide studies/critical suicide studies, critical race theory	D	A/I/P
Knowledge and understanding of participatory research methods/co-produced research?	D	A/I

Competencies and Personal Attributes:		
Ability to work to deadlines	**E**	**I**
Ability to work independently and as part of a team	**E**	**A/I**
Enthusiasm and commitment to the aims and objectives of the Discovering Liveability Project	**E**	**I**

Essential Requirements are those, without which, a candidate would not be able to do the job. **Desirable Requirements** are those which would be useful for the post holder to possess and will be considered when more than one applicant meets the essential requirements.

Author	AO	**PBP**	SP